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Lawmaker Declines To Confirm Reports Of K.G.B. Defector

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 — The vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee declined to comment today on reports that a high-ranking official of the K.G.B. had defected to the United States and was living here under an assumed name.

Congressional sources said Saturday that the K.G.B. official fled last year and was providing American intelligence officers with valuable information about the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence and security agency.

The lawmaker, Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Democrat of Vermont, said that the Central Intelligence Agency had told him that there was no such Soviet official. But Mr. Leahy would not comment when asked if he has learned of the defector from others.

A Congressional source today confirmed reports that the defector had fled the Soviet Union last year.

But Mr. Leahy said in an interview today: "I have been told by the C.I.A. that no such defector exists. If you asked me whether I believe that, I would say, in light of Mr. Casey's public statement of reluctance to follow the procedures of oversight, then I will have no comment."

Congressional Oversight

He was referring to William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, who has been involved in a public battle with the Senate Intelligence Committee over Congressional oversight of the C.I.A.

Lawmakers have complained that the agency has failed to inform them fully of important information about intelligence activities.

In a letter to the committee last November, Mr. Casey charged that oversight of intelligence agencies "had gone seriously awry." The letter appeared to have been prompted partly by mounting criticism of the agency and its handling of Vitaly S. Yurchenko, a Soviet intelligence agent who returned to Moscow after defecting to the West last year.